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National Agricultural
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West Virginia Field Office

in cooperation with

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during October 2018 totaled 1.20 million pounds. This was unchanged from October 2017. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,622,000 pounds live weight, up 2 percent from October 2017. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 952 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 306,000 pounds live weight, down 12 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,000 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 299 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.90 billion pounds in October, up 6 percent from the 4.64 billion pounds produced in October 2017.

Beef production, at 2.43 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter

totaled 2.96 million head, up 6 percent from October 2017. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 1,363 pounds.

Veal production totaled 7.2 million pounds, 13 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,800 head, up 22 percent from October 2017. The average live weight was down 18 pounds from last year, at 232 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.45 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.6 million head, up 6 percent from October 2017. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 283 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.1 million pounds, was up 10 percent from October 2017. Sheep slaughter totaled 199,800 head, 9 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, up 2 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2018 commercial red meat production was 44.4 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2017. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was up 2 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent.

October 2017 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2018 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 9.22 billion during October 2018, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 8.04 billion table eggs, and 1.18 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.10 billion were broiler-type and 86.3 million were egg-type. The average number of layers during October 2018

totaled 386 million, up 2 percent from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,388 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2017

All layers in the United States on November 1, 2018 totaled 386 million, up 2 percent from last year. The 386 million layers consisted of 326 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.31 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2018, averaged 77.1 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from November 1, 2017.

Egg-type chicks hatched during October 2018 totaled 55.0 million, up 7 percent from October 2017. Eggs in incubators totaled 45.2 million on November 1, 2018, down slightly from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 225 thousand during October 2018, up 14 percent from October 2017.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during October 2018 totaled 790 million, down slightly from October 2017. Eggs in incubators totaled 649 million on November 1, 2018, down slightly from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.28 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply

flocks during October 2018, down 4 percent from October 2017.

NOVEMBER CROP PRODUCTION

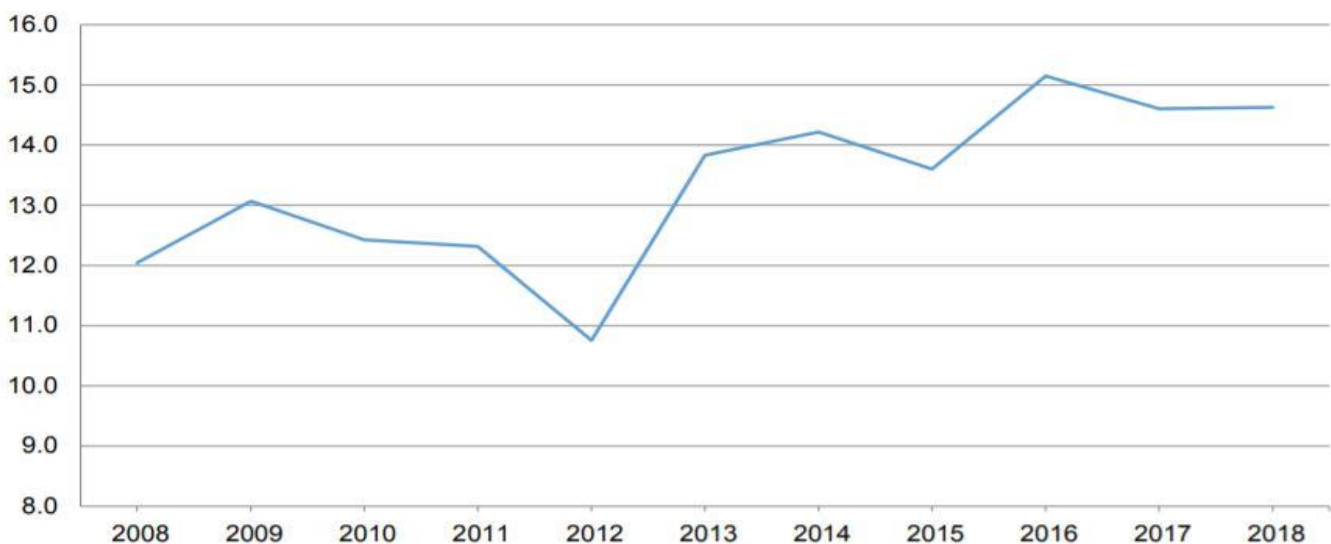
United States - Corn production is forecast at 14.6 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the October forecast but up less than 1 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 178.9 bushels per acre, down 1.8 bushels from the October forecast but up 2.3 bushels from 2017. If realized, this will be the highest yield and second highest production on record for the United States. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, unchanged from the previous estimate but down 1 percent from 2017.

Record high yields are forecast for Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, South Dakota, and Tennessee. Acreage harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, unchanged from the previous estimate but down 1 percent from 2017.

The November 1 corn objective yield data indicate the highest number of ears on record for the combined 10 objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

Corn Production – United States

Billion bushels



Soybean production is forecast at a record 4.60 billion bushels, down 2 percent from the October forecast but up 4 percent from last year. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 52.1 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushel from last month but up 2.8 bushels from last year. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 88.3 million acres, down slightly from last month.

The November objective yield data for the combined 11 major soybean-producing States (Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota) indicate a higher pod count from the previous year. Compared with final counts for 2017, pod counts are up in 8 of the 11 published States. An increase of more than 200 pods per 18 square feet from 2017's final pod count is expected in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, and South Dakota.

FARM LABOR

United States - There were 784,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of **October 7-13, 2018**, down 7 percent from the October 2017 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 843,000 during the week of **July 8-14, 2018**, down 4 percent from the July 2017 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.47 per hour during the **October 2018 reference week**, up 8 percent from the October 2017 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$13.74 per hour, an increase of 7 percent. Livestock workers earned \$13.38 per hour, up 9 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$13.64 per hour, was up 8 percent from the 2017 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.5 hours during the October 2018 reference week, down slightly from the hours worked during the October 2017 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.28 per hour during the **July 2018 reference week**, up 8 percent from the July 2017 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$13.58 per hour, up 8 percent, while livestock workers earned \$13.22 per hour, up 8 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined

wage rate, at \$13.48 per hour, was up 8 percent from the July 2017 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.2 hours during the July 2018 reference week, down slightly from the hours worked during the July 2017 reference week.

The 2018 all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$14.17 per hour, up 6 percent from the 2017 annual average wage. The 2018 field worker annual average wage rate was \$13.32 per hour, up 6 percent from the 2017 annual average. The 2018 annual average combined wage for field and livestock workers was \$13.25, up 6 percent from the 2017 annual average of \$12.47 per hour.

For the **October 2018 reference week**, only the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) region saw a large increase in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week, with 20 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. The Southeast region saw the biggest decline, with workers down 29 percent from the 2017 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.

For the **July 2018 reference week**, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) and Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) regions. The Northern Plains region saw the largest increase, with 17 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. The Southeast region saw the biggest decline, with workers down 31 percent from the 2017 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.

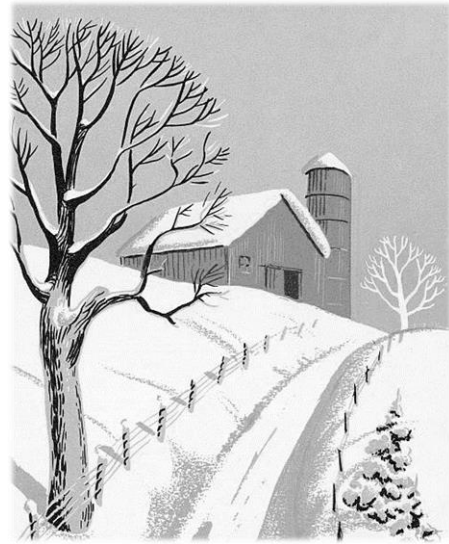
JANUARY AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the January Cattle and Sheep and Goat surveys from December 28, 2018 through January 14, 2019. Survey data are collected across the country and are used to set state and national estimates for cattle, sheep and goats.

Interviewers from the West Virginia Field Office will be collecting data on cattle, sheep and goat inventories. The cattle questions will cover milk and

beef cow numbers including replacement heifers, steers, cattle on feed, milk production, and calf crop during 2018. Sheep and goat questions will include breeding and market sheep and goat numbers, lamb and kid crops, 2018 wool and mohair production, and death totals. Results of the surveys will be published in the February edition of the *Mountain State Reporter* and on our website at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv>.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support. Your information matters!



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Red Meat Production
Chickens and Eggs

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